

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

causing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol in an amount not greater than about 0.25 % by weight ~~of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol~~, to contact with a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of said basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1 so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

2. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said chemical equivalent ratio is within a range of from 1 to 3.

3. (previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the causing is carried out at a temperature ranging from 0 to 60°C.

4. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of hydroxide, oxide and carbonate of metal.

5. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said metal is at least one selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline-earth metal.

6. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium oxide, sodium carbonate, potassium hydroxide, potassium oxide, potassium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, lithium oxide, lithium carbonate, rubidium hydroxide, rubidium oxide, rubidium carbonate, cesium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, strontium hydroxide, and barium hydroxide.

7. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said basic aqueous solution of said basic substance has a concentration ranging from 0.001 to 20 % by weight.

8. (currently amended) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

providing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol in an amount not greater than about 0.25 % by weight ~~of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol~~, and a basic aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of said basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1; and

causing said fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with said basic aqueous solution containing said basic substance so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

9. (currently amended) A process for purifying fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether, comprising:

providing fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol in an amount not greater than about 0.25 % by weight ~~of at least 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol~~, and a basic

aqueous solution which contains a basic substance in an amount providing a chemical equivalent ratio of the basic substance to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol being within a range of not less than 1;

forming a reaction system in which inorganic acid radical is substantially absent; and

causing said fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether containing 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol, to contact with said basic aqueous solution containing said basic substance so as to remove the 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl alcohol from the fluoromethyl 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl ether.

10-18. (canceled)